



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Wise at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer Room, Sheriff's Department, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

Present: Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Conley Hanson, Supervisor Bryan Stafford, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, and Supervisor James Ponzer.

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Paralegal Tori Kinderman, Sheriff John Matz, Lieutenant Darin Rice, Communications Captain Lara Vendola, Training & Special Operations Lieutenant Tim Eichman, Interim Medical Examiner McKenzie Repinski, County Board Supervisor Morris Cox, County Board Supervisor Steve Binder, County Board Supervisor Tim Paterson, Emergency Management Director Eric Rasmussen, District Attorney Eric Sparr, and County Clerk Julie Barthels

B. Approval of Minutes

1. October 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke to approve the minutes for the October 6, 2025, Judiciary & Public Safety Committee meeting. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Tim Paterson, County Board Supervisor, District 11, addressed the committee members with items of concern regarding support for veterans and noted steps that are being taken to help with this.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Stafford noted that he sits on an Advisory Committee at the Fox Valley Technical College for Entrepreneurial. Fox Valley Tech has started a new program for veterans called the "Innovation Accelerator for Veterans Program". The program trains someone and helps them develop a business concept and execute it.

Supervisor Hancock-Cooke thanked Attorney Sparr and his office for sending historical population information regarding counties that are similar in size to Winnebago County to help determine the current increase in the jail population.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise noted that he would be moving Item #G5 — "Amending Winnebago County Board Rule 24.7(5)(B)" to the top of the business item as G1.

F. Department Reports

1. Sheriff's Report

- EAA Airventure After Action Review Discussion
- X-Roads 41 After Action Review Discussion

Lieutenant Eichman provided an after-action overview report of the Special Events in Winnebago County.

EAA:

- *The event took place July 21–27, 2025.*
- *Systems that are in place are good.*
- *Might be able to start 24-hour service for event starting on Sunday, instead of Saturday in 2026.*
- *They staff the event for the entire week through Monday at 3 a.m.*
- *For 2025, they had 704,000 attendees. They staffed the event with 7 deputies, 3 supervisors and some reserves. Brown County Explosive Ordinance Disposal team were on site and were extremely helpful. There were some suspicious packages left behind that needed attention. The number of calls for service was 335. There were four custodial arrests.*
- *No fatalities this year.*
- *Camping is increasing each year. They have created two additional campgrounds. Airplane camping increased to the south of the event.*
- *The Dive Team operates a dive boat for the entire week for seaplanes.*

Citizen Classes — Lieutenant Eichman conducts citizen classes out of his office.

X-Roads 41:

- *It is the second year for this event. In his opinion, this is a very well run event. No complaints. It is a growing event. Dates for next year will be August 6–8, 2026. Attendance for 2024– 26,000; for 2025–41,500.*
- *The biggest issue for this event is alcohol. This year, they focused on under-age drinking early in the evening to prevent fights, etc. The event started with a free concert on Wednesday night; they added one deputy for this event. For this event, they scheduled 18 deputies and 1 lieutenant per day for 24-hour coverage. Number of Arrests: 2024–68; for 2025–109.*
- *Recommendations for Future Years — Don't throw fake money, it caused fights, thinking that it was real money. Try to get a grasp on pre-attendance to determine the number of staff needed. The camping numbers have increased significantly. A canine unit was used to find firearms and ammunition.*

Lieutenant Eichman took questions from the committee members.

2. District Attorney's Office Update

- Recent significant trials
- Recent sentencings potentially of interest to the committee
- Non-case related activities and any other updates

District Attorney, Eric Sparr, gave an update for his department:

Trials:

- *Receiving stolen property over \$10,000. Sentenced to 12 months in jail. The defendant had two previous felonies.*
- *Two counts of 4th degree sexual assault. Convicted to 1 1/2 years in jail.*

Sentencing:

- *Property offense: Stealing from construction sites. Sentenced to 3 1/2 years in jail and 5 years supervision.*
- *Homicide at the Resource Center: Sentenced to 25 years confinement and 25 years supervision.*
- *Homicide: Sentenced to two life sentences without parole*

- *Drunk Driving and Drugs: Sentenced to 15 years confinement, 15 years supervision.*
- *1st Degree Recklessness for Placing Dangerous Substances in Food: Sentenced to 2 years confinement, 3 years supervision.*
- *Stealing from a Local Non-profit as an Employee: Sentenced to 1.5 years confinement, 3 years supervision. Might have additional charges filed against her.*

Non-Case Related Activities and Any Other Updates:

- *Happenings in the DA's Office — Three employees provided a legal update to Oshkosh Police Department and other agencies*
- *Attended Citizen's Academy — The District Attorney, a Court Commissioner and the Public Sector attended this academy.*
- *UW Law School — District Attorney Sparr attended an informational session and a one-hour session with approximately 100 students. They received good feedback from the discussions.*
- *Historical Statistics — Hope to bring this to the next meeting.*

There were no follow-up questions for District Attorney Sparr.

3. Medical Examiner Update

- Suicide and Overdose numbers update
- Traveling pathologist possibility
- Cremated remains

Acting Medical Examiner, McKenzie Repinski, gave a report for the Medical Examiner's department.

Updated Suicide and Overdose Numbers:

- *For 2025: 22 confirmed suicides; 2 pending cases; 20 males; 4 females*
- *Causes of death: 6 use of firearms, 7 hangings, 4 overdoses, and 5 others. Since September 1, 2025, there have been six suicides.*
- *Overdoses: 18 confirmed cases, and 10 pending cases since September 1, 2025. Increase in cocaine use, methamphetamine and fentanyl; mostly cocaine. For 2025: 23 males and 5 females overdosed.*

Projects in the Medical Examiner's Office:

- *Traveling Pathologist: Medical Examiner Repinski has started looking into MAPS (Midwest Anatomic Pathology Services), which is a private pathologist. Winnebago County would require a forensic pathologist. She has been in contact with a pathologist out of Cook County, Illinois that travels to Wisconsin and has a license to practice in Wisconsin.*
- *The Medical Examiner's office has 55 cremated remains in their possession. They are looking into ways to find family members or to dispose of the remains.*

Medical Examiner Repinski took questions from committee members.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Authorization for the Sheriff's Office to enter into an Agreement with Town of Clayton for Contracted Police Patrol Service.

Lieutenant Darin Rice brought forward a post contract with the Town of Clayton for Contracted Police Patrol Service. This contract would require 20 hours a month of dedicated patrol deputies. The Town of Clayton would pay for the hours worked and \$100.00 a month. No additional staff would be needed; this would be done with on-duty staffing. The Town of Winneconne started this process in January 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to authorize the Sheriff's Office to enter into an agreement with the Town of Clayton for contracted police patrol services. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE.

2. Authorization for a budget transfer within the Sheriff's Office budget to purchase a used squad from the Town of Winneconne.

Lieutenant Rice asked for a budget transfer to purchase a used squad car from the Town of Winneconne.

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to authorize a budget transfer within the Sheriff's office budget to purchase a squad from the Town of Winneconne. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

3. Authorize the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to enter into a 5-year purchase agreement with Axon Enterprise Inc., for the purchase of Tasers and related equipment and services.
Lieutenant Eichman asked for approval to enter into a 5-year purchase agreement with Axon Enterprise Inc for the purchase of Tasers and related equipment and services. This item was included in the 2026 budget. They are asking for approval at this time to hold the pricing where it was offered.

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to authorize the Winnebago county Sheriff's office to enter into a 5-year purchase agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., for the purchase of Tasers and related equipment and services. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

4. Authorize Winnebago County Emergency Management to Enter into Intergovernmental Agreements with Local Governments for the Purposes Coordinating Emergency Management and other Response Activities

Director of Emergency Management, Eric Rasmussen, asked for the authorization to enter into intergovernmental agreement with local governments for the purposes of coordinating Emergency Management and other response activities.

Motion by Chairman Wise, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with local governments for the purposes of coordinating Emergency Management and other response activities. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

5. Amend Winnebago County Board Rule 24.8(5)(B)

Supervisor Steve Binder explained the reason for bringing this forward. Rule 24.8 does not clarify that the limit is \$40,000 per project, not \$40,000 per year. If a project requires more than \$40,000, it needs to be presented to the County Board.

Supervisor Cox referenced the carryover in question relates to the study for Emergency Medical Service that was presented in December 2024 and the bid came back in January at a higher rate for the study. The group came back the next year(2025) asking for more money to be able to complete the study.

Motion by Chairman Wise, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to consider amending Winnebago County Board Rule 24.8(5)(b). CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

6. Eliminate Chapter 5.01(5) of the Winnebago County General Code

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller discussed the process that they have used in their department as it relates to individual departments regarding the General Code. All the changes are sent to Muni Code. Upon completion from Muni Code, it will be presented to the County Board.

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to eliminate Chapter 5.01(5) of the Winnebago County General Code. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

7. Amend Chapter 5.02(4)(a)4 of the Winnebago County General Code
Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller noted the changes that were made to this chapter. Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to amend chapter 5.02(4)(a)4 of the Winnebago County General Code. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)
8. Amend Chapter 5.02(7) of the Winnebago County General Code
Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller noted the changes that were made to this Chapter. Once the new codes are in effect, Muni Code recommends not including fees within the codes, but including them as an attachment. Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to amend Chapter 5.02(7) of the Winnebago County General Code. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)
9. Eliminate Chapter 5.04 of the Winnebago County General Code
Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller noted the reason for this change. The change would be to combine Chapter 5.04 with 5.08. The County does not have a coroner position, they have approved and changed the position to a medical examiner. Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Hancock-Cooke to eliminate Chapter 5.04 of the Winnebago County General Code. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE.
10. Amend Chapter 5.08 of the Winnebago County General Code
Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller noted the changes for this chapter to reflect the position of the medical examiner. Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to amend Chapter 5.08 of the Winnebago County General Code. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

H. Presentations

There were no presentations for this meeting.

I. Next Meeting Date

Monday, December 1st, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, November 17th, 2025. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.
The next meeting date will be December 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer room of the Sheriff's Department, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

J. Adjourn

*Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to adjourn the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie A. Barthels
Winnebago County Clerk*

*The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website:
<https://winnebagocowi.portal.civicclerk.com>*

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